

sex talk.

answers to your questions about sex and relationships

wildfact

98% of UA students prefer to date someone who drinks moderately or doesn't drink at all. (2010 Health & Wellness Survey, N=2,931)

Q What do you do if you walk in on your roommate?

A. Let's face it: Accidentally walking in on your roommate during a romantic moment is awkward – but it happens. If you share a room, house, or apartment, you can appreciate the fact that a big part of the bargain is balancing privacy, personal space, and boundaries. And while a “walk in” pretty much violates all of these, you shouldn't let a few unfortunate seconds define the rest of the relationship.

OK, so this first part is obvious, but it's worth mentioning. If you walk in on your roommate, make sure you walk out just as fast – and a simple parting “sorry” probably wouldn't hurt to show it was unintentional. But then what? Sometimes it's not the event itself that creates a problem, but the fact that we don't talk about it. At the first good opportunity, bring up the faux pas and openly address it. This is one of those times in life that you will likely “laugh about later,” though it may feel anything but funny after the incident.

Humor is actually not a bad way to deal with the awkwardness, provided you and your

roommate are on the same page and are both okay with making light of the situation. Just make sure that it's just between the two of you, since your roomie may not be comfortable with you sharing the episode with others.

Last but not least, you'll want to talk to your roommate(s) about how you can avoid something similar from happening again. If things are pretty informal, you may need to institute a “knock first and wait” policy for the bedrooms. As you can imagine, knocking then immediately opening the door isn't very effective. You may also need to talk about designating the bedrooms as the only approved places for intimacy. If you're sharing a room in the residence hall, try placing a rubber band or sock on the doorknob – or some other cue that signals “do not enter.” Although no one wants to be “sexiled” – it's better than the alternative.



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Have a question? Send it to sextalk@email.arizona.edu

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